

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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MARIANAS MALLARD AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Marianas mallard (Anas oustaletii) of the western Pacific Ocean has been determined to be an endangered species by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Marianas mallard is found only on the islands of Guam, Rota, Saipan, and Tinian. The wetlands utilized by this duck have been, and are continuing to be, extensively drained.

The Marianas mallard currently appears on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Under the provisions of the Convention, trade in Appendix I species requires an export permit from the country of origin and an import permit from the country of destination. In addition, now that this species of waterfowl has been determined to be an endangered species pursuant to the Act, all prohibitions of the Act will apply to any activity involving the Marianas mallard. All trade in this species between the United States and foreign countries and between the States will be restricted to scientific research and propagation or survival enhancement. All Federal agency actions that would affect the existence of this species are prohibited under the provisions of Section 7 of the Act.

This action is being implemented as a supportive measure to the Convention. If this species were not listed under the provisions of the Act, there would be no controls for interstate commerce of the species within the United States or no mechanism by which the habitat of this species could be protected. The biological evidence clearly indicates that the Marianas mallard is threatened with extinction.

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